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Chino

21 MAR 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Rumanian Government Reorganization

1. The governmental and party changes announced at the National Assembly session in Bucharest on 21 March have not affected the relative standings of the various members of the regime. In effect, the changes confirm the pre-eminence of party first secretary Gheorghiu-Dej in the regime. In the long run, however, these changes could result in the emergence of new groupings within the lower levels of the regime.

2. As presently constituted, the Rumanian Government consists of legislative and executive branches--the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers. The Presidium of the Assembly, the collective chief of state, has been abolished and a new 17-man Council of State, headed by party first secretary Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, has been created in its stead. As chairman of the council Gheorghiu-Dej becomes head of the government; the premier or chairman of the Council of Ministers remains chief executive officer. Thus, in a move roughly paralleling changes in East Germany and--to a lesser extent--

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Czechoslovakia, Rumania becomes the third East European state to invest its top party leader with authority as chief of the nation. [Contrary to initial press reports, Gheorghiu-Dej has not relinquished the party secretariat.]

3. As chairman of the Council, Gheorghiu-Dej now is in a position to direct the whole range of regime operations, both in the party and in the government. Subordinate to him in the Council will be three vice-chairmen--Ion Gheorghe Maurer, Stefan Voitec, and Avram Bunaciu. Maurer, one-time foreign minister and until today titular chief of state as president of the disbanded Presidium, becomes premier, i.e., chief of the Council of Ministers, and will direct the executive apparatus. Voitec, formerly a deputy premier, is the newly elected president of the National Assembly and will serve as Gheorghiu-Dej's liaison with that unwieldy body. Bunaciu, a former foreign minister, apparently will serve only as Dej's deputy in the Council of State.

4. In the only change to take place in the top level of the party's formal structure, Chivu Stoica, another of Dej's close associates, has resigned

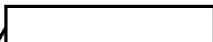
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the premiership and been named one of four secretaries of the party central committee. Presumably he will function as "second secretary" administering the political apparatus.



for HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
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cc: DDCI

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